Megalomys luciae

Megalomys luciae, also known as the **Saint Lucia pilorie**[2] or **Saint Lucia giant rice rat**,[1] as well as several variant spellings, is an extinct[1] rodent that lived on the island of Saint Lucia in the eastern Caribbean. It was the size of a small cat, and it had a darker belly than *Megalomys desmarestii*, a closely related species from Martinique, and slender claws. The last known specimen died in the London Zoo in 1852, after three years of captivity.[3] It probably became extinct in the latter half of the 19th century, with the last record dating from 1881.[4] There is a stuffed specimen in the collection of the Natural History Museum in London.

Megalomys luciae

Stuffed specimen

Conservation status

Extinct (1881) (IUCN 3.1)[1]

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Rodentia
Family:	Cricetidae
Subfamily:	Sigmodontinae
Genus:	†*Megalomys*
Species:	†***M. luciae***

Binomial name

†***Megalomys luciae***
(Forsyth Major, 1901)

Synonyms

Oryzomys luciae Major, 1901

References

1. Turvey and Helgen, 2008
2. Musser and Carleton, 2005
3. Flannery and Schouten, 2001
4. Ray, 1962

Literature cited

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- Ray, C.E. 1962. The Oryzomyine Rodents of the Antillean Subregion. Doctor of Philosophy thesis, Harvard University, 211 pp.
- Turvey, S. and Helgen, K. 2008. *Megalomys luciae* (http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/full/12981/0). In IUCN. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.2. <www.iucnredlist.org (https://web.archive.org/web/20140627094911/http://www.iucnredlist.org/)>. Downloaded on November 24, 2009.

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